

From: McMillin, Stella@Wildlife
To: [County Ag Commissioner, Alameda@CDPR](#); [Palmer-Townsend, Marilyn@CDPR](#); [Kratville, David@CDFA](#); [Miller, Robert](#)
Subject: Loss report for raccoon in Contra Costa County
Date: Friday, July 06, 2018 2:02:10 PM
Attachments: [P3284.pdf](#)

Good morning, I have attached a loss report for a raccoon in Contra Costa County. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you.

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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE BRANCH
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY
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Lab Number P-3284
Necropsy Number Z18-0096
CAHFS Number D1806534

Date of loss: February 4, 2018
Sample: Raccoon
Procyon lotor
Protection status: No special status

To: Humberto Izquierdo
Contra Costa County Agricultural Commissioner

Report Date: July 5, 2018

Remarks

Loss of raccoon from probable bromethalin intoxication.

Background

On February 3, 2108, a raccoon was found hiding in the bushes in Danville, appearing injured. The raccoon was docile when trapped and then hissed when put in the carrier by Animal Control. In was brought to Lindsay Wildlife Hospital. Upon admission, raccoon acted uncoordinated, exhibited head pressing behavior and dragged the back half of its body. The raccoon was given supportive care but continued to act lethargic and uncoordinated and was euthanized within 24 hours. The carcass was submitted to CDFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory (WIL) to determine cause of death.

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RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

The raccoon carcass was kept frozen until necropsy. A necropsy was performed at WIL on April 20, 2018. It was found to be an older adult female in good nutritional condition. The tail appeared scraggly with dry skin but the rest of the coat was normal. Three digits were missing on the left front leg. Lungs were dark red and frothy blood was present in the trachea. A large clot was present in the heart. Adipose tissue was collected and sent to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory in Davis. Desmethylobromethalin, a toxic metabolite of bromethalin, was detected in adipose tissue.

Bromethalin is a neurotoxicant used as a rodenticide to control commensal rodents and moles. Animals intoxicated with bromethalin often display neurological signs such as disorientation and a loss of coordination, particularly in the hind legs. Given the presence of desmethylobromethalin in the adipose tissue and the neurological signs noted at intake, it is probable that the cause of death of this raccoon is bromethalin intoxication.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY



**Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

Approved



**Dr. Deana Clifford, Senior Wildlife Veterinarian,
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

**Cc: Marilyn Palmer-Townsend,
CDPR**

**David Kratville,
CDFA**

**Robert Miller,
USEPA**